

**POSITION PAPER**  
**ON**  
**FIREFIGHTER COMBAT CHALLENGE**

**PURPOSE:**

- To provide information on the *Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge* competition for CY01. The primary purpose of the Firefighter Combat Challenge is to encourage firefighter physical fitness and market firefighter skills to the public

**BACKGROUND:**

- *On Target Communications, Inc.*, sponsors the *Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge* event to showcase the talents, skills, and athleticism of national, as well as international, teams of fire and rescue personnel
  - Racing against the clock, firefighters wear full turnout gear and perform five tasks normally performed at the scene of a fire — five-story stair climb, 50-foot hose raise, axe evolution, 75-foot hose pull and target evolution, and a 100-foot rescue mannequin drag
  - Firefighters may participate individually (male, female, over 40, 50, and chiefs), in a team format and/or as a member of a relay team
- Each year, *On Target Communications, Inc.*, sponsors as many as 25 regional events, culminating the year with the world championships
- The benefits for Air Force firefighters are increased physical fitness and enhanced teamwork; the Air Force realizes the potential for increased retention rates
- HQ AFCEA encourages Air Force firefighter participation and believes the competition is a viable method for promoting physical fitness and a healthier lifestyle throughout the fire career field
  - During the CY01 regional events, HQ AFCEA tracked the performance of Air Force competitors from participating installations
    - Nine of the 12 USAF participating installations qualified for *World Championship X* based on their performance at regional level competitions
    - Due to military operations after 11 Sep 01, only five of the nine qualified USAF installations could support sending competitors to *World Championship X*
    - Installations that competed at *World Championship X* were: Travis AFB, Edwards AFB, Little Rock AFB, Ramstein AB, and the DoD Fire Training Academy (Goodfellow AFB)
- Some highlights from *World Championship X* are provided below:

- All of the Air Force teams (includes DoD firefighters from the Fire Training Academy) were represented very well and were strong competitors
- The on-site announcer always provided positive comments anytime any Air Force firefighter or team was competing
- HQ AFCESA provided support to the teams and individuals to include Air Force blue helmets, firefighter gear bags, team banners, pictures, and video support at the event
- All four of the Air Force teams that competed in the relay category earned a position in the final elimination round for this category. Edwards AFB and Ramstein AB advanced to the top 64, the DoD Fire Training Academy advanced to the top 16, and Travis AFB advanced to the top 8 before elimination
- Of the four Air Force teams competing in the team category, Travis AFB was the only team to earn a position in the finals
- The Travis AFB team had the fastest three Air Force individuals at *World Challenge X* (SSgt Eversley, 1.38:67; A1C Myers, 1.41:39; and SrA Romano, 1.44:01)
- These are the best Air Force performance times recorded at the *World Challenge X*:
  - Relay Category - Advancement: Travis AFB ... Top 8
  - Relay Category - Time: DoD Fire Training Academy ... 1 minute and 20.50 seconds
  - Team Category: Travis AFB ... 5 minutes and 04.46 seconds
  - Individual Category: SSgt A.J. Eversley (Travis AFB) ... 1 minute and 38.67 seconds
- Events are broadcasted on ESPN and seen by more than 30 million people worldwide. The scheduled firefighter challenge broadcast dates are listed below:
  - 23 Dec 01, 1600 EST, ESPN2, *World Challenge X*, from Memphis, TN
  - 30 Dec 01, 1600 EST, ESPN, *World Challenge X*, from Memphis, TN
  - 12 Jan 02, 1300 EST, ESPN2, *WCX Streamlight Survivor Championship*, from Memphis, TN
  - 12 Jan 02, 2230 EST, ESPN, *WCX Streamlight Survivor Championship*, from Memphis, TN
- To obtain additional information on the Combat Challenge, visit this web site:
  - <http://www.firefighter-challenge.com/>

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

- None. For information only.